UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

The 824th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
Held on October 12, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter 227

A. PRESENTATION – New Faculty Senate Website

Anthony Paik –Secretary of the Faculty Senate
Lucas Henrique and Caitlyn Foster – Faculty Senate Graduate Assistants

Secretary Paik: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

Good afternoon. We are going to present our new Faculty Senate website. The Senate office has been building a new website we started the process in January of 2023, and it launched last week in terms of moving over to the UMass servers. Thanks to Vice Chancellor Chris Misra and his team. We're hoping to give you a short presentation about it.

Let me just start with some thanks. First of all, I like to thank Vice Chancellor Andrew Mangles for providing funding to support the initiative which allowed us to hire external contractors. Thank you to the development team Shady Hill studios, including Irwin Sentilles and David Register, who were essentially the programmers. Thanks to our editor, her name's Katherine Harvrilla-Sanchez. Thanks to Claudia Donald from University Relations in providing technical guidance in the initial stages of the development of the new website, and also ensured a very smooth and fast process getting through University Relations in terms of making sure that we met the standards for the university.

Lastly, I would like to thank Caitlyn and Lucas, who are basically responsible for 100% of the content that you will see today. They spent many an hour, particularly over the summer, populating the website you'll see.

Lastly, again, let me thank Vice Chancellor Misra who has been supporting the move to the UMass servers, and will be helping us with our archives, which are substantial in terms of the number of pdfs that we have to process.

Graduate Assistant Henrique: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

The policies listed on the new Faculty Senate website are intended to be our representation as interpreted from multiple Senate documents. As such this is our best attempt at creating this. It is unlikely that we did everything right the first time, and we ask you to bear with us as we work through different iterations of policies. Once we are sure that there are no errors, we hope that the policies on our page will become the living policies down the road.

Graduate Assistant Foster: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

Alright, let’s take a look at the website itself. Starting from the top, we have our “supernav”. Here you can find information about the Senate itself, including our Bylaws and our Constitution in an easily-accessed html format. We’ve also created profiles for all of our members, which can be found on our membership and officers pages. Reaching the Senate Office is now far easier than on the old site with our new Contact Us page. Here

you will find a mailing address for the office, phone numbers, and contact information for Senate Office employees. And we are especially proud to launch our News page, where you can find updates on what has passed the Senate to share with your departments.

G.A. Henrique: CCMS is for Course and Curricular Management System. So, we wanted to again streamline most of the processes that you guys use on a daily basis or just when you need something for your academic purposes. So, if we go through CCMS, we can see how we have done our best to streamline all the necessary things. So, if we go into active program, for example. you can see how different things have been made user friendly and itemized into different little accordions here. And everything that you could possibly need is here, and usually most of the answers to questions that you will probably have are here as well.

So, everything is nice and organized for you. And the other ones in relation to academic programs, courses, organizational units and for policies and recommendations. So again, with another example, like organizational units, you can see there that most of the stuff is organized into a nice user-friendly mode.

G.A. Foster: An integral part of the Senate's operations are our Councils, Committees, Task Forces, and Ad Hoc Committees. During the creation of this website, we wanted to provide a centralized location with a uninform format that worked for everyone. So, let's take a look at the Health Council as an example.

Each page has information about the operations of the group written by our editor Kathrin. There is also a link to the portion of the Constitution that discusses that group. Next, we have the chair and membership of the group with individual profiles. If meeting dates are scheduled ahead of time, we have a calendar system that provides information on the date, time, and location of that groups meetings.

Finally, we have the Documents tab. Here we are able to posts minutes, agendas, and reports sent to us by the group. A big change with this new website is that we will only be posting documents from the current academic year. Looking specifically at the Health Council, they met once in September and will approve those minutes during the October meeting. Once the minutes are approved, they will be posted under this tab. If you are the chair of a council or committee, we ask that you send us any approved documents that you would like uploaded for your webpage.

Before we move on, I'd like to highlight the Task Force and Ad Hoc archive. Founding documents and final reports from task forces and ad hoc committees that have concluded can be found here. This is the only portion of the website where you can find documents from previous years. For anything else, please send our office an email with your request.

G.A. Henrique: As you know, all of our documents for each meeting are listed on the Faculty Center website. Every meeting the week before we'll have all the information for that particular meeting. You can find past meetings for this academic year there as well. So, for example, if we go into this meeting on October twelfth. you can see here the agenda. The minutes will be posted as soon as the recording is processed, and all the items to be discussed at this meeting will be located here. And if you have questions about archive data, for example, something from a previous academic year, please contact our office, and then we will get that those documents or specific document you're looking for to you as soon as possible.

G.A. Foster: By far the largest portion of our website is Policies, Guidelines, and More. Looking first at our guidelines and recommendations, here you will be able to view recommendations, resolutions, and guidelines from the Senate, organized by the year in which they were passed. Our Board of Trustee Policies page contains a list of all Senate-related Trustee policies. You can find the link to the policy itself on the Board of Trustee's website by clicking on the accordion. And last but certainly not least we have the policies section.

We have made an effort to include all Senate policies here, organized by type. The content was generated by myself and Lucas using a variety of Faculty Senate documents, so let's take a look at what you can expect on these pages. As you can see, the policy itself is displayed here in html format, with related policies linked in the sidebar. If we scroll to the bottom we'll find the sources for that page, which will, under normal circumstances, bring us to the documents used to generate that page. During the transition to this new site, we temporarily lost access to these documents, however once this is restored the links should function as intended and we thank you for your patience as we work to get this fixed. Before we conclude this live demonstration, there is one page in particular we'd like to show you.

Last year the university converted over five hundred and eighty special topics courses to permanent ones, a process that involved examining the syllabi for every course. Through this process we received feedback from faculty about their desire for a clear guide on what is required for a syllabus as opposed to what is recommended, and out of this came our Syllabus page. Here course proposers can access a clear list of syllabi elements, find the required syllabi statements, as well as download and use a pre-made sample syllabus. This syllabus is freely available for faculty and instructor use if desired and can be used as-is or modified to fit different courses. When new requirements are passed both the syllabus page as well as the sample syllabus will be updated accordingly. This page is part of larger section that course proposers may find useful, our Course policy page. We aren't able to go through everything in our allotted time, but highlights include the New Course Approval Process, Guide to course numbering, and increasing credits for a course. This concludes our live demonstration of the new Faculty Senate website, so please bear with us as we switch back to our slides.

G.A. Henrique: Of course, there's going to be some bumps along the way. So, we ask that you be patient with us. We, of course, want to get it right. We also want to make sure that everything that you are wanting from this website is functioning in the way that you'd see working smoothly for you. So, if you have any feedback, please let us know. If there are corrections to policies that you may find, please let us know if there are items left out that you think should be included, please let us know there are accidental inclusion, please let us know. And if there are additions that you want to make, please let us know. So yeah, please contact any of us at the Faculty Center Office. We are more than happy to help you. This is your Senate. We work for you, and we are happy to do so.

G.A. Foster: We do have some known issues already. While we've made our best attempt to get this right the first time, we're very open to conversations about where policies should live. Specifically, the academic regulations and the enrollment regulations. So academic regulations, the ones that are found on our site, they are senate policies, but historically the Registrar has kept track of them, and then the Provost office publishes them in their annual academic regulations document. So, there is some crossover, but ours have been supplemented by additional Faculty Senate documents. In particular. If you look at the academic honesty policy that draws very heavily on Faculty Senate documents, and we have not included any administration policies. So, we're very open to conversations about this. If anyone has feedback about this, we would love to hear it.

With enrollment regulations we really need your help. We aren't sure where these should live. We have incorporated them out of a desire to be as inclusive of policies the first time around. But we're not sure if these are actually our policies or not, or if they're issues of budget. So, for example, we have a past Registrar who once requested the Senate approved modifications to these, so we really we don't know. So, if you have thoughts on this we would love to hear. It would be a great help.

Going forward, as we make revisions and we update the site, we hope to plan for the future as well. We would like to undertake a global pronoun update that would encompass all the policies on the website should they be adopted as living policies. We're proposing that we adopt a gender-neutral pronoun, such as "they/them", in place of the "he/she", that are found in a lot of older Faculty Senate documents. We do have couple of broken

links that we are working on fixing, and we also have the lost Senate documents. We are already working with UMass IT. We will hopefully regain access to those soon, and as soon as we do we will go through, and we'll fix those.

We will now open up the floor to questions and thank you for listening.

QUESTIONS:

Senator Messier: The website looks great! What can be done concerning the changing of photos of profiles?

G.A. Henrique: You can send us an email anytime with a preferred photo or you can request to have the photo removed completely.

Senator Modenos: Thank you both. The website is already light years better than it was, and definitely more accessible too. You were talking about enrollment regulations before, and that you didn't know where they would be housed or go. But it said "UWW Enrollment Regulations". So, I'm wondering if you can elaborate or explain if it's the general campus, or if it's just the online?

G.A. Foster: We specifically have the "UWW Enrollment Regulations". Secretary Paik can explain.

Secretary Paik: These regulations are contained within the Provost document called Academic Regulations, and it's titled "UWW Enrollment Regulations". But the actual language also talks about CPE, our former language. So, they're specifically those regulations.

Chancellor Reyes: Thank you. I know how much work has gone into this. So, thank you. One thing that I was thinking is, I didn't know that if the photos of the faculty and members were linked to their University ID photos. And if not, that might be something to think about. So that it's only the same photo across systems. Perhaps that is something to consider.

G.A. Henrique: If we have more money for the budget. And there are some limitations to what we can ask for. You know, we had a lot of requests for our great website developers. But sometimes there are just limitations to what we can do.

Chancellor Reyes: I don't know what this website lives if it's within UMass, but just something to think about, because it would be nice to have the same picture across different systems, right? My real question is with respect to the search engine. Could the search engine be limited to the Faculty Senate website page so stay on the Senate website when searching a word like "curriculum" or a word like "syllabus"? And then it limits it to that part of the site and not the whole World Wide Web.

G.A. Foster: So, this is something that we brought up with our developers. It's supposed to be working that way. I'm not sure if they ever got it functioning, but we did ask them to do that. So hopefully it will be working.

Vice Chancellor Misra: We can definitely work with the Faculty Senate on that. There's a couple of options we have around that both to deal with a limitation within Faculty Senate documents and there's some other mechanisms I was mentioning to Secretary Paik. So, we'll continue to work with you on that. Thank you.

Senator Sher: I had a similar question concerning the search bar to remain within the Senate website. And the only thing I'll add to that is just that in the past I have been searching through, for you know, even before the website, I have been trying to figure out some things about Senate policies. So, I actually think that would be extremely useful to have that feature.

G.A. Henrique: We will do that as soon as we can with Vice Chancellor Misra's help. We will definitely be doing that, and we will let people know so that they can understand that that dynamic has changed.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Chancellor Reyes: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

Since last time when I was here, we were ongoing on the listening sessions of the colleges, and those have been, I think, extremely well received, not only by us, but by people that have attended, and having the Vice Chancellors there and the Deans has been very useful.

We also attended, or had a listening session in that similar format for the Student Government Association. Now we're going to have it with the Graduate Student Senate next week. We spent about an hour with them yesterday with SGA and we're going to have about an hour with GSS next week. Just listening to what they're doing and trying to incorporate their thoughts as we get to the point where we launched strategy planning. So it has been very good to hear from the students about how they want to be incorporated into the process.

The searches for some leadership positions are ongoing. I want to continue to thank Secretary Paik for his support of helping us find the participation in the search committees. They're all ongoing at this moment, the three Vice Chancellor searches as well as one of the Deans. So, they're all ongoing and on pace to be completed hopefully, all of them, by April of next year.

Thank you.

Interim Provost Malone: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

Just to follow up the search committee for the Provost has met twice. The profile is nearly complete. We expect it to be issued next week. I have commenced consultations according to Senate policy for the search Committees for the Deans of Humanities and Fine Arts and College of Education. We're about halfway through the responses. I expect to have those done shortly. The search firms have both been engaged for those searches, so they'll come in shortly.

Acting Vice Chancellor Vandenberg: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

Next week we're going to host two listening sessions that's open to the UMass community. Focused on community engaged, community based, and community involved research. Our concern is that our current ways of collecting information about those activities are not capturing the full scope of research activities that involve communities. I see some heads shaking. So that's definitely a problem.

We're trying to identify ways to better systematize the data collection on those activities. So, if you didn't directly get an invite to that, the invite went out to center and institute directors, deans, department chairs, and members of Research Council. They were asked to share it with folks that they thought might want to attend. But if you would like an invite, there's going to be a session on Tuesday and a session on Wednesday. Just let me know, and I'll forward that to you. Thanks.

Vice Chancellor Mangels: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

I'm just relaying a message from the Controller. The effort reporting system is up for the FY'23 effort reporting cycle. This is for all faculty who either committed effort or charged effort to federal grants. You may need to go in and certify that your effort was met or make adjustments to the effort card, and those will be processed by the Controller's office.

I ask that everybody do that fairly promptly and also check to make sure that all of your effort cards are up to date. We will be following up on some effort cards that are still incomplete from last year. So, I appreciate your cooperation on that. It's a pretty important Federal compliance rule that gets audited, and it's something we want to stay clean on.

Thank you.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary Paik: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

I would again like to thank Caitlyn Foster and Lucas Henrique for their work on the website. It wouldn't have been a success without all of their efforts. Due to some turnover in the Senate over the summer, we held some special elections. I am pleased to welcome the following new Faculty Senate Senators:

District 1:
Carlton Ho (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

District 2:
Ralf Jentoft (Chemical Engineering)

District 9:
Jeremy Bentley (Accounting)
Jennifer Kish-Gephart (Management)

District 13:
Alejandro Heuck (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)

Congratulations to all the new senators, and I'm looking forward to working with you.

3. The Chair of the Rules Committee

Senator/Chair Olsen: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

The Rules Committee met twice since our last Faculty Senate meeting, once with the Administration and once on our own. We had a special guest come and talk to us, and that was Senior Vice Provost Wilmore Webley. Webley, who talked with us about the equity action plans. Our current business is primarily focused on filling the two task forces that were set up at the previous meeting. We're finalizing a new document that will come for a vote on search and evaluation procedures with the Provost office, so that should come in the next couple of months.

4. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees
Senator Hoagland: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

The Board of Trustees met, and its committees met, as well as the Inter-Faculty Council from our sister campuses met in late September. I'll list just a few highlights. Across the system enrollment this fall was just slightly better than was projected, so I take that as good news. There is some minor discussion of the impacts of the recent Supreme Court rulings on admissions and their impacts for our campuses.

Bigger items were the wage and fringe benefits and how the campuses are going to pick up those costs and the expectation that those will create some financial stress and need for State support. There were some final figures for last fiscal year that show that this situation ended up pretty good. Our financial succeeded expectation, and in particular, since this number frequently gets mentioned, the operating margin for this campus was quite a bit higher than the level that is targeted. Going forward by the Board for Operating Margins, which, if you remember, it's 2%, and the number for us was greater than 5%.

There was a bit more introduction, by Board members, of the need to look at fiscal discipline. I just relay this because it gives you some idea of how some Board members feel. But there was a little group of the board that felt. To quote "*that UMass is at or near a financial crisis as ongoing costs pile on to deferred maintenance, which is a ballooning expense*". So that actually is a direct quote. I'm sure we can hear about deferred maintenance a lot, but it is a cost that is real and is growing and as we have these benefits and wage increases, we still have some fiscal stress.

So, moving to the Inner Faculty Council. That's the group of representatives from the various campuses. The faculty representatives met after the board meetings and had just a discussion of items from their various campuses. The UMass Lowell faculty are a bit concerned about the fiscal moves that might be going on at their campus, potentially layoffs and buyout packages due to some financial pressures there. Particularly a concern that the nature of what's going on isn't it being clearly expressed to the faculty. All of the campus faculty members expressed concerns about the significant staff shortages on their campuses.

Lastly, there was some small rumblings about some problems with the faculty governments and academic governance at the UMass Boston campus.

5. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors
***Senator/MSP Co-President Liberatore*:** Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

Oh, friends. We're here again. It's so nice to see you all at the Faculty Senate. Only good news today! So where are raises? They're still coming. Probably November. Who knows?

Other good news, though in all seriousness I hear gloom and doom from the Board of Trustees. Austerity. It's always time for austerity. No, it isn't!

The Fair Share Amendment passed, and yes, $2 billion dollars. Never mind the Governor giving it back to rich people with capital gains taxes. That's a fight for another day.

Be that as it may, that money is supposed to be allocated to transportation and education, and the Cherish Act is designed to allocate that money to, among other places, higher education, including this place, doing things like paying off deferred maintenance, fully funding staffing on campus, wages and benefits, debt free higher education for our students, and so on.

I am delighted to report that our Chancellor signed onto a letter supporting the passage of the Cherish Act. Yes, thank you, Chancellor.

This is a letter for supporting these goals for our University, and for all of higher ed. in Massachusetts. You might be like easy lift since he's the Chancellor, but that's not true. Not always do they sign onto these things, so I appreciate the support from the administration. It is always a delight to be unanimous with the administration as a member of the labor unions in a goal that will benefit all of us, all of our shared benefit. I'm just happy to say that that is in progress.

We are hoping to get that over the finish line before the end of the current legislative session. You'll be hearing from MSP about actions you can take, but you know what they are. Write to your legislator, write to your State representative, and so on. Tell them you want this to get over the line. This is really important stuff. For MSP members is our General Assembly is December 8th, at noon. We'll see you there.

Thank you so much. Take care, everyone.

6. **The President of the Graduate Student Senate**
7. **The President of the Student Government Association**
8. **The Student Trustee**

C. QUESTION PERIOD

Senator Fitzgerald: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

I've been asked to come here on behalf of several of my colleagues in the libraries. Chancellor Reyes visited us to have a listening session in anticipation of strategic planning for the campus level and we asked questions about the spaces, especially the library workspaces in the library.

We heard that everybody wants the central space on campus. I want to say, on behalf of the libraries, we have increased instruction by 75% in the last 15 years. We've increased books and ebooks 30% in the last 15 years. Electronic journals, 91% in the last 15 years. But we're still working in spaces that were designed 50 years ago. 50 years ago, when there wasn't internet access. We have spaces where we have to have confidential human subjects research, happening without offices, with cubicles, no walls, no doors, no privacy.

We have cubicles where we have leaks, bladder bags above our heads, stalactites and stalagmites in our office spaces. So, we want to know, how can we get on the list of faculty members who have office space that is functional?

Vice Chancellor Mangels: Recognizing your needs. This was referenced actually by Dave about deferred maintenance as a growing problem here on campus. It's on a lot of facilities, and probably including this one. So, work through your Dean. The Provost's office and my office are putting out a sort of ask to the Deans to provide lists of both, short-term and long-term deferred maintenance types of projects that they have. So those would then be evaluated by the Provost and by myself, and eventually even Chancellor Reyes.

So that'll be the process. Tillman Wolf is representative on all capital matters involving the Provost's office. So just make sure that your Dean forwards those to us. Thank you.

Senator Messier: Thank you, Presiding Officer Brewer.

I just want to say thank you to Chancellor Reyes for coming. I want to second Senator Fitzgerald's mention of you coming to the listening session today. It really meant a lot to be able to represent the work that is being done by everyone in that building and across the other branches both the Science and Engineering Library and the Mount Ida Library campus.

I think we are a really important piece on this campus that doesn't really have a department. It's kind of a department that you have to graduate with, but you don't graduate from. So, I really appreciate you coming in and recognizing the importance of us on this campus. Your remarks about the listening sessions are very important.

My question is for Senator/MSP Co-President Liberatore, I'm sorry to be a broken record again, but I feel in some ways that MSP isn't taking seriously the fact that folks have been waiting for 5 months for raises. We agreed to bargain. We're standing here with a contract that we are holding onto that hasn't been changed. The Governor told us 4%.

I'm facing student loan debt that I haven't paid in 3 years. I'm sorry I'm getting emotional. It's really hard living as a single person, making what my parents would have been rolling in dough in 15 years ago. Not being able to find a place to live next year, because the rents in Amherst are so high.

So, if we could maybe not joke around about the raises and recognize that this is a serious thing that people have been putting all of their eggs into baskets for, I would really appreciate that and if there's anything the campus can do to help us.

Senator/MSP Co-President Liberatore: Senator Messier, Alison, I'm sincerely sorry. I make light because it's so frustrating, but after your words I realize it's hurtful, and I won't do that in the future. I will say the raises are obligated to be paid. The State hasn't paid. I just heard that the Trustees said we're 5% over margin instead of 2%. I'm wondering if the Chancellor can do something with that money in the interim while we're waiting for the State to backfill. Chancellor?

Vice Chancellor Mangels: The campus is only authorized to fund the raises after supplementals are provided by the State legislature. So, your emphasis for pressuring the State Legislature is absolutely on target. It's not clear why there has been this delay for getting the supplemental passed. Unfortunately, we will have to wait until that happens, and once we do, we'll get the raises processed as soon as possible.

D. ANNUAL REPORTS

1. 2022-23 Annual Report of the Research Library Council, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-005.

This Report was Received.

2. 2022-23 Annual Report of the Student Affairs and University Life Council, as Presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-006.

This Report was Received.

E. NEW BUSINESS: COURSES (CONSENT AGENDA)

MOTION: 05-24 **That the Faculty Senate approve the courses CATALAN 246A, CATALAN 246B, CATALAN 301, COMM 416, COMM 544, EDUC 780SJ, EDUC 785, EDUC 787C, FILM-ST 416, FILM-ST 650, FILM-ST 651, FILM-ST 660, FILM-ST 661, FILM-ST 662, FILM-ST 663, HISTORY 156, JAPANESE 353, JAPANESE 145, M&I-ENG 274H, MUSIC 608, NURSING 565, PHIL 172, POLSCI 289MU, PUBHLTH 378, PUBHLTH 441, PUBHLTH 345, SOCBEHAV 175S, SPANISH 372, SPANISH 436, SPANISH 476, SPP 625, SPP 630, as recommended by the Academic Matters, General Education and Graduate Councils.**

Secretary Paik read the motion.

MOTION 05-24 was Adopted.

F. NEW BUSINESS: ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (CONSENT AGENDA)

MOTION: 06-24 **That the Faculty Senate approve (1) Revision to the Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-007; (2) Revision to the Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-008; (3) Revision to the Master of Science in Data Analytics and Computational Social Science Degree Program, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-009; (4) Creation of a Thesis Concentration within the Master of Science in Data Analytics and Computational Social Science Degree Program, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-010; (5) Creation of a Field Experience Concentration within the Master of Science in Data Analytics and Computational Social Science Degree Program, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-011; (6) Creation of a Non-Thesis Option Within The Master of Architecture Degree, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-012; (7) Regarding Revision to the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-013; (8) Regarding Revision to the Philosophy Minor, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-014; (9) Creation of an On-Line Graduate Certificate in VideoGraphic Criticism, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-015; (10) Revision of the Jazz Composition/Arranging Concentration in the Master of Music Degree, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-016; (11) Revision of the Jazz Track Concentration in the Master of Music in Performance Degree, Degree, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 24-017.**

Secretary Paik read the motion.

MOTION 06-24 was Adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Paik, Secretary